UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/352
S/26370
27 August 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Item 32 of the provisional agenda*
COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES FROM THE TERRITORIES OF THE BALTIC STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 26 August 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the text of a statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Latvia (see annex) concerning the decision of the Government of the Russian Federation to suspend its troop withdrawal from Lithuania. I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 32 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivars SLOKENBERGS
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

ANNEX

Statement issued on 25 August 1993 by the
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Latvia

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs expresses regret concerning the decision of the Government of the Russian Federation to suspend its troop withdrawal from Lithuania, thus disregarding international obligations and the troop withdrawal timetable signed by Lithuania and the Russian Federation on 8 September 1992. Such actions can cause tension in the whole Baltic region and in the long term negatively influence relations between the Russian Federation and the Baltic States.

From an international rights point of view, the fact that the agreement on troop withdrawal not signed owing to differences of opinion is irrelevant, since the presence of foreign troops on the territory of another country against its will is illegal. Therefore troop withdrawal should be concluded quickly, completely and in an orderly manner, as is demanded by the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, even if the above-mentioned agreement is not signed.

Attempts to increase pressure on Lithuania and other Baltic States and to influence their position with the help of threats will not change the existing situation and can be regarded as a violation of the sovereignty of those States and complicate negotiations in the future.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs hopes that the Russian Federation will revise this decision and withdraw its troops, finding a solution acceptable to both sides in this controversial issue. This would be in Russia's own interests and would only strengthen its international prestige.